

Message Text

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R 111733Z MAY 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4546
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT, UR
SUBJ: PRAVDA IRRITATES THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

1. THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) DAILY L'UNITA ON MAY 10
REACTED CRITICALLY TO AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA MAY 9
COMMENTING ON THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED MEETING OF THE EDITORIAL
BOARD OF THE PRAGUE-BASED JOURNAL PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND
SOCIALISM. L'UNITA QUOTES PRAVDA AS SAYING THAT THE MEETING
REPRESENTED QUOTE AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL MEETING
OF COMMUNISTS, END QUOTE. L'UNITA GIVES A SERIES OF OTHER
QUOTES FROM PRAVDA WHICH LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE MEETING
FAVORED NOT ONLY THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE MAGA-
ZINE BUT ALSO A CONSOLIDATION AND COORDINATION OF THE INTER-
NATIONALIST ACTION OF THE FRATERNAL PARTIES.

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2. FOLLOWING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PRAVDA ARTICLE, L'UNITA
PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL NOTE STRESSING THAT THE MEETING IS ONE
THAT IS HELD PERIODICALLY TO REVIEW THE OPERATIONS OF THE
MAGAZINE AND TO EXAMINE THE THEMES WHICH WILL BE TREATED IN
FORTHCOMING ISSUES. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, L'UNITA NOTES
THAT THE PCI VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE AND THE NATURE OF THE MEETING
OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT CONFORM TO THAT HELD BY THE SOVIETS.

L'UNITA UNDERLINES THAT NO APPEALS OR DOCUMENTS WERE LAUNCHED OR APPROVED OTHER THAN A ROUTINE STATEMENT ABOUT THE MEETING AND ITS PARTICIPANTS. FINALLY, THE PCI DAILY OBSERVES THAT ATTEMPTS TO INTRODUCE QUESTIONS NOT STRICTLY CONNECTED WITH THE WORK OF THE JOURNAL WERE REJECTED OR PERMITTED TO DIE.

3. COMMENT. THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN PRAVDA AND L'UNITA REFLECTS THE PRICE THE PCI, AND PRESUMABLY OTHER LIKE-THINKING COMMUNIST PARTIES, MUST CONTINUE TO PAY FOR ATTENDING INTER-PARTY IDEOLOGICAL CONFERENCES AT WHICH THE SOVIETS ARE PRESENT. THE SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY ARE GOING TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN AS MUCH

POLITICAL HAY AS THEY CAN FROM THESE CONFERENCES IN A MANNER WHICH CAN ONLY CAUSE IRRITATION TO A PARTY SUCH AS THE PCI. WHILE THE PCI CAN ISSUE DISCLAIMERS TO THE SOVIET STATEMENTS, THE QUESTION WHICH CAN BE ASKED HERE IS WHY THE PARTY CONSISTENTLY PUTS ITSELF IN THIS POSITION. AS SUCH, THE PRESENT EXCHANGE CAN ONLY ADD AMMUNITION TO THE ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO CRITICIZE PCI LINKS TO THE CPSU AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. GARDNER

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